

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



July 31, 2022

Here we are at the end of July. This month we have a fifth weekend and that means we have a second collection after communion for the St. Vincent

de Paul Society. Over the years your generosity in this matter has been exemplary. As you are well aware, since you feel the rising cost for life's essentials, there are many who do experience this with no means of escape. I can reassure when it comes to your donations, we are wise and prudent stewards with the funds collected for SVdP. Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness and generosity toward St. Vincent de Paul.

Last Sunday we reflected upon the topic of prayer as Jesus responded to one of his disciple's request for Jesus to teach them how to pray. This request arose during a relatively calm time after Jesus himself was at prayer. There was something about Jesus that got their attention. They were familiar with praying since they were familiar with gathering at the synagogue for the Sabbath. However, there was something different about Jesus when he was at prayer. What was that difference? In a word, it was the love between him and God.

For starters Jesus responded with what we rightly call the "Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father". St. Luke's version is shorter than the one we use on a regular basis which is from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Responding to the request Jesus teaches them the Lord's Prayer as a start. This prayer is the first stage for a Christian prayer life. In this prayer we place ourselves in the proper relationship with God. In addressing God as "Father" a couple of things are to be considered. For one, God is personal; familial. God is not only the transcendent Supreme Being; God is also intimately personal as a Father. When we consider the transcendence of God, we believe God as the creator of all things has a plan or a purpose for His Creation. God sees the whole of his creation in its entirety. Secondly, when Jesus reveals God as Father, He is telling us that God is intimately personal. Jesus himself, raises his eyes to the heavens and addresses God as His Father in his dialogue of prayer. Jesus' own prayer is an expression of his loving intimacy with God the Father. Jesus is the model of one who prays to God. Our relationship, our prayer, is to be understood in the context of a dialogue of love and trust.

In the context of love and trust, we give God our due reverence and devotion. Our prayer is an act of praise and worship of God. Out of our trusting devotion, we desire God's will be done; *on earth as it is in heaven*.

We place our faith in God in that he will give us our daily bread. God will supply all that we necessarily need for our relationship with Him. This is most important: our relationship with God. Come what may, the most important thing we need is that which sustains our relationship with God. With this attitude, we are also thankful for all that sustains our life in this world. We are thankful for the material things that sustain us, but most especially all that sustains our soul. Our sincere desire is our daily bread sustains us to eternal life.

With eternal life in mind, we are conscious of those things that interfere along the way of this goal: our sins. Thus, we ask for forgiveness for those things that we freely do that hinders, blocks and keeps us from growing in our relationship with God in this life and blocks the way to eternal life. Acknowledging our sinful hearts, we become more aware of the mercy of God

and our need for God's mercy. If we do not acknowledge our sin we do not understand and appreciate that God is loving and merciful. When we become aware and appreciative of God's mercy, we must also become aware that others are also in need of mercy. Just as we do not deserve mercy, but that it is a Divine gift, so we are to be willing to be merciful to those who are in "debt to us" not because they deserve it, or that we want to, or that it may make us feel good, but because we are to be merciful as God is merciful to us. This especially identifies us as Children of our Heavenly Father. In Luke's gospel it is also the lesson we previously heard in the story of the Good Samaritan. "Go and do the same."

Lastly, we ask for Divine protection especially at the end of our lives; our final test. God's desire is for us to share in His life for all eternity. This is Heaven. While in this life we struggle to share in God's life. We easily get caught up in the present moment and lose sight of our final destination. The way we keep our lives oriented toward heaven is in this prayer Jesus taught us: the Lord's Prayer.

Since this is the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, this prayer has a primacy. It is an important prayer for all disciples. It is well worth our time and effort to pray as a daily practice. This prayer needs to become second nature. This is important when times are good and most especially when things are not going well: i.e., a crisis.

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, he gives them a prayer. Luke's account happens during a time of calm when Jesus himself was at prayer. During this 'calm' time there is an opportunity for reflection to let the power of this prayer to reveal its true depth. During a crisis we do not have the luxury of reflection to plumb the depths of this prayer and it could easily be dismissed as not very helpful right now. However, for the Christian we must act in faith even as we automatically pray the prayer Jesus himself gave us. Thus, the point to be made, we need the quiet time during the 'calm' to spend time praying and reflecting on the Lord's Prayer. I hope this little personal reflection is helpful.

There are many sources that have reflections on the Lord's Prayer. There are numerous biblical commentaries on the gospels that have thoughts on the Lord's Prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has a section on prayer as well as an extended section on the Lord's Prayer. Just the same, there are resources to help our personal reflection on this important prayer.

In a time when we need it most, the "Our Father" reveals important element that we need to keep in mind as a people of faith. Our motive for prayer, like Jesus, needs to flow from our love for God and others. With faith and love our lives are properly oriented to God and our hope in sharing in God's life; now and in the life to come.

When we pray the "Our Father" habitually (daily) we do not always consider the elements expressed in the prayer. As a gift from Jesus himself, this prayer is given to us to strengthen us when we need it most. Even when we pray it haphazardly or thoughtlessly, we should not give into the temptation to consider it a waste of time. It is never a waste of time. But then again, if we are tempted to think it a waste of time, we should consider all those things that we do, of which we can consider to be a waste of time. These things actually shape our thoughts and attitudes, for good or for ill. It is interesting to note the things on which we actually waste our time; i.e., social media etc. That can reveal a painful self-

awareness. However, it is never a waste of time when we pray. In a sense we can say we are “wasting” our time with God. It doesn’t matter how we say it or think it, it is always a good thing to pray no matter the degree of our mindfulness. We mindlessly waste our time with things that shape our attitudes and lives. We are better off “wasting time” on good things and most especially with God in prayer. In the long run this isn’t really a waste of time; it is time well used. In the final analysis, with persistence our lives will be a *habit of prayer*.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

**This week we pray Week II of
the Liturgy of the Hours.**

**This weekend, July 30 & 31, St. Vincent de Paul
will be “Holding the Hat” during all Masses as a
2nd collection.**

PRE JORDAN-CLASS will be held Wednesday, August 3rd.
The class will be held in the Parish Office at 7:00 p.m. Parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized are asked pre-register for this class by calling (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.

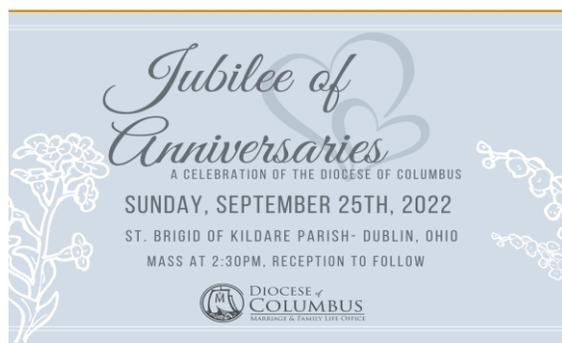


The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women aged 16 and up are welcome to join us.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.**

Men of the East - Traveling Holy Hour

St. Leonard Catholic Church, 57 Dorsey Mill Rd E, Heath, will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church. All Men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once-monthly Holy Hours. Men of the East exists to support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of men of the Catholic Church. It is part of the larger Catholic Men's Laity Ministry movement in the Columbus Ohio Diocese.



Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebrates Marriages with Mass on September 25th, 2022

Couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th (and every year thereafter) anniversaries in 2022 are invited to the annual *Jubilee of Anniversaries* in honor of their marriages! Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 25th, at St. Brigid of Kildare Church in Dublin. All registered couples, whether attending or not, will receive a personalized certificate. Couples who R.S.V.P. by Sunday, September 11th, will be included in the Mass worship aid and The Catholic Times.

Visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage/jubilee-of-anniversaries> for more information or contact the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560.

**A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped to
make this year’s Vacation Bible School a huge success!**



BISHOP ROSECRANS
HIGH SCHOOL



Bishop Fenwick
School

The Catholic Schools of Zanesville

Bishop Fenwick and Bishop Rosecrans Teachers needed:
High School Part-time Math Teacher, High School Full-time Intervention Specialist, Middle School Math Teacher, Middle School Religion Teacher, Middle School Science Teacher, Technology Teacher (full-time) and K-4 Reading Teacher (full-time). Requirements for all teaching positions: Hold an appropriate Ohio teaching license (Professional, Permanent, or Resident Educator) or be eligible to obtain one before beginning to teach. Current satisfactory BCI & FBI background checks. Have attended or be willing to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children training Excellent verbal and written communication skills Candidate must complete an online teaching application with the Diocese of Columbus. Interested parties should send their letter of interest and résumé to Executive Director of the Catholic Schools of Zanesville, Kelly Sagan, at ksagan@cducation.org

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, August 5th. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 3:00 p.m. All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration and volunteers are needed as Christ exposed in the Monstrance must never be left alone. While drop-ins are welcome and encouraged, there is a need for a minimum of two people per hour, for the day. Please prayerfully consider saying YES to spending just one hour with Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. If you can commit to an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Monstrance during Eucharistic Adoration, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597, ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org

Right to Life Action Coalition Muskingum County is part of District 4. District 4 will be holding their first district wide meeting on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. hosted by Ross-Pike Right to Life at St. Peter Parish Hall, 285 W. Water St., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. Brunch will be provided. Please RSVP by August 8, 2022. All are welcome.

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Church Support	
Sunday, July 24, 2022	
OFFERTORY	\$6,842.00
EFT	
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$6,842.00

May God Bless for supporting you parish!

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: stnickparish.org.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.



Please join us each Monday at the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 10:00 a.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession for the any needs of our nation, community, and parish.



What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, August 1, St. Alphonsus Liguori

8:00 a.m., Mass: *The Sergio Family, Church*
10:00 a.m., Rosary, Parish office chapel

TUESDAY, August 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Ron Miller, Church*

WEDNESDAY, August 3

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Ann Parker, Church*
7:00 p.m., Pre Jordan, Parish Office

THURSDAY, August 4, St. John Vianney

No Mass today

FRIDAY, August 5

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Dorothy & John Walker, Church*
8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Larry Burkhart, birthday, Church*

SUNDAY, August 7

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*
10:45 a.m., Mass: *Kathy Shawger, Church*

Readings for Week of August 1

Monday	Jer 28:1-17	Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22	Mt 14:22-36
Wednesday	Jer 31:1-7	Mt 15:21-28
Thursday	Jer 31:31-34	Mt 16:13-23
Friday	Na 2:1, 3;3:1-3, 6-7	Mt 16:24-28
Saturday	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14	Lk 9:28b-36
Sunday	Wis 18:6-9	Lk 12:32-48

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

August 6 & 7, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, August 6 5:15 p.m.	Sandy Black	Nichole Hannahs	Laurie Harmon Margaret Kronenbitter, Scott Peterson
Sunday, August 7 8:15 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Patti Logan	Susan Pratt Tammy Dovenbarger, Phil Kocoloski
Sunday, August 7 10:45 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Kenna Hansel	Diana Dunn Karen Hardman, Tim Hoffer



Three ways for men struggling with addiction to change their lives.

**30 Day
Discovery**

**12 Month
Residential
Recovery**

**Long-Term
Recovery
Housing**

Discovery Program

30 Days

The first step in every man's time at The Refuge. Located on a 138-acre property in Lancaster, Ohio, it is a warm, safe, and welcoming home. Men will follow a comprehensive plan for positive and personal growth, utilizing curriculum, one-on-one coaching, peer support, and Christ-centered study.

There is **no cost and no insurance** needed during the Discovery program. After completing this 30-day period, men have the option to continue in The Refuge residential recovery ministry for up to 12 additional months.

Residential Recovery

12 Months

Men start applying what they learned during the Discovery program to their daily lives. They continue their personal growth as they transition into a work environment with one of our partner employers. This provides daily structure and allows them to establish an employment history to set them up for long-term success after completing.

There is **no cost and no insurance** needed to go through the 12-Month Residential Recovery program.

Recovery Housing

Long Term

After completing our residential recovery program, men have the option to continue living in Refuge-affiliated sober housing. Our Project 614 program offers men access to housing on the west side of Columbus where they will live with other Refuge alumni. Rent is offered at a deep discount to make the transition manageable.

This offers guys an intermediate step in their transition from The Refuge to the rest of their lives, and the chance to maintain a built-in support and accountability network with other alumni.

TheRefugeOhio.org
614-991-0131





Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund

The Office of Catholic Schools

OHIO NOW OFFERS A PROGRAM TO RECEIVE A
100% TAX CREDIT FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE
CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO \$750.

Our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus have made **tuition assistance a philanthropic priority.**

During Ohio's tax-free holiday on **August 5-7**, we encourage you to take advantage of another tax incentive by **donating** to our Scholarship Granting Organization and receiving a **tax credit!**